



BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2024

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES



EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

For “The Interview” this month, I talk to David Beckett, He is chairman of the Match and Tournament Committee and an expert player who plays a lot with Neil Ewart. They generally get excellent results as a partnership. He normally plays at the Victorian Bridge Centre in Brighton.

I took the Metro train to the city on Sunday 25th August to play in the RACV congress. While waiting at the station, I read the latest performance statistics for the month of July for the train service. It read that the delivery measurement was 98.65% and the punctuality was 92.41%.

I was interested in how these percentages were calculated. The delivery figure indicated that the scheduled train service actually arrived at all 98.65% of the time. The punctuality figure indicated that 88% of trains ran within 5 minutes of the scheduled time. That would seem to have indicated that 92.41% of 88%, or 81.32%, of the trains hit the required milestone.

I have heard stories about the Japanese train service. A train must arrive and depart within a second of the scheduled time. If the driver fails to meet this target a few times, they must explain the reason for the failure and then they are sent back to a training school to address this failing.

Of course, Australians are more forgiving (or perhaps we are used to mediocre service in some situations).

I was thinking about a bridge analogy (I know some of the readers might be wondering if I have anything better to do). Is it possible to set performance measurements for declarers?

Sometimes the contract looks impossible, so you offer the opponents one off without pulling a card (you might have to negotiate more than one off for a really bad contract). As long as you play the hand 98.65% of the time without this negotiation, you have achieved the target.

If you make your contract or are close to making the contract 81.32% of the time, then you have achieved the second target.



Above is a picture of Chris Hughes looking puzzled at home.

The second measurement can be maximised by playing in safe contracts at a low level and miss games and slams. You would probably make a successful train driver but your bridge scores would be very poor.

I have played at the RACV congress a couple of times now. My partner and I have an unenviable record. Each of the two times, in a late round of the event, the opponents bid a grand slam against us that wasn't bid by many. This time 12.8% of the pairs bid it (however, it is an improvement, as the first time, I believe that they were the only pair).

You can only take it on the chin and congratulate the opponents. To do well in these large pair events, you need to play well but lady luck also needs to be on your side at critical times.

Submit all your input to the following email address

editor@bridgevictoria.au

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TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS SEPT

The following hand took place in a team event

NORTH(D)

♠AK53
♥9
♦J873
♣KJ72

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠
♥AQ87632
♦Q62
♣AT5

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♣	P	1♥	P
1NT	P	4♥	P
P	P		

With both sides vulnerable, the auction proceeds as shown.

A straightforward auction to 4♥.

West leads the ♣6.

You play the ♣J but East plays the ♣Q and you win the ♣A.

What is your plan from here?

The answer is at the end of the bulletin.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH SEPT

Both sides nil vulnerable in a pair's match

NORTH

♠ A73
♥ A863
♦ 8652
♣ 65

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH(D)

♠ K6
♥ QJ9
♦ AQ9
♣ AQT83

West leads the ♣6 (your 1♣ opening could be as few as two cards).

East plays the ♣9 and you win with the ♣T. At trick two, you lead the ♥Q and East wins with the ♥K.

East now leads the ♠Q.

What is your plan from here?

[Hint – the ♥ suit is divided 3 -3]

Answer in the next bulletin.

Send in your play to

editor@bridgevictoria.au

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♣	P
1♥	P	2NT	P
3NT	P	P	P



THE INTERVIEW

THE INTERVIEW THIS MONTH IS WITH DAVID BECKETT

Editor:

Where were you born (you don't need to say the year)?

David:

Born in Melbourne, Coburg to be specific.

Editor:

Where did you go to school?

David:

I did 'prep' at Belle-Vue Primary in North Balwyn. For the rest of primary school, I went to Manningham Primary in Bulleen/Templestowe. My secondary education was at Ivanhoe Grammar. The main reason for that was the local high school was struggling so much for teachers that each year level (except year 12) had 1 day a week with no classes. Mum and Dad both worked in the Education field and they wouldn't have that so they sent me to Ivanhoe Grammar.

Editor:

Did you play card games or something similar at home?

David:

I learnt to play German Whist with my grandparents at a fairly young age (for your information, In my opinion, a very good game for getting kids used to Trump Style games). Then I played Euchre and 500 as I got a bit older. I used to stay with them quite a bit during school holidays and we visited every weekend. Both my grandparents started the day with a few games of patience before breakfast.

Editor:

What other interests di you have as a child?



David:

I started swimming seriously at age 11 and continued doing that until I was 19. I averaged about ten two-to-three-hour sessions a week. As a junior swimmer, I made quite a few finals at the Australian Titles and was a member of the Victorian Junior swimming team a couple of times. Unfortunately, my best position was fourth so I received no Australian Swimming medals. Swimming led to Surf Lifesaving which I started at age 14 and I continued this endeavour until my mid 30's. I was a member of Point Leo Surf Lifesaving Club which, at the time, was probably the best "Swimming Club" in Australian Surf Lifesaving circles. I had quite a bit of success mainly in Surf Races, Belt Races and an event called R&R where a team performs a mock rescue and is judged on how well they do it. When I was 16, I started competing in the Ironman at Surf Lifesaving Carnivals. I made a few Victorian Surf Lifesaving teams and toured New Zealand as part of a Victorian team.

At University, I started playing Water Polo firstly for Melbourne Uni, then Melbourne High School Old Boys and finished my career with a Surf Club team where I was Captain, Coach, President, Secretary and Team Manager - suffice to say the other guys in the team were all good swimmers but didn't do much else. My favourite sporting story involves that team. We were in something like C-Grade and went through the season undefeated. In the last game of the season, we played Collingwood and there was an all-in brawl and the match was abandoned. Captain, Coach and Team manager had to front the tribunal - it was me vs The Three Collingwood guys at the tribunal. The upshot was a "draw" in the game which meant Collingwood made the finals. Of course, fate played a hand and they made the Grand Final. The State League Grand Final and the C-Grade Grand Final were both on at the same time (in different pools at the State Aquatic Centre). No prizes for guessing which had the bigger crowd. Standing room only at the C-Grade Grand final and the game didn't disappoint. Right before the game they presented the medals for Best Player and leading goal scorer - I won both which the Collingwood guys noted. Just before half time (we were leading 3-0 from memory), I took a shot which missed but the ball ended up in the grandstand. The umpire turned his back and the Collingwood guy laid into me. (The scar's still on my face if you look closely). On land I would have been out cold. In those days there was no blood rule so I continued playing the rest of the game. I have no recollection but we went on to win. I spent the night in hospital after they called in some whiz-bang surgeon to stitch me up. The next few weeks I made elephant-man look like Paul Newman.

Editor:

It appears that the Collingwood water polo team had something in common with their Australian Rules team. 😊 My first encounter with Collingwood fans was in the 'wet section' at Victoria Park.

What was the pathway to your career in education and where did you teach?

David:

Both Mum and Dad were primary school teachers and it was "in the blood". I completed a degree in Applied Chemistry at RMIT then worked for 'Comalco' for a couple of years before doing a Diploma of Education and started teaching.

Editor:

Rio Tinto Aluminium (previously known as 'Comalco') is now known as Rio Tinto Alcan after Rio's takeover of Alcan. It was the world's eighth largest aluminium company.

When did you get involved in the local bridge scene and what prompted you to start playing?

David:

When I was a student teacher, my supervising teacher at Flemington High was Andrew Maccready-Bryan. The first day I arrived he gave me a copy of Klinger's "Learn to Play Bridge" (I think it was called that). Andrew Maccready-Bryan (commonly known as 'Mac') introduced me to bridge at Andrew Mill's club in Kew.

Editor:

Did you have a regular partner initially?

David:

After three or four duplicate sessions Andrew Mill teamed me up with a very young Robert Fruewirth and we went to Canberra for the Youth in January. Robert and I then played a little bit over the next couple of years - not a lot as he lived in Deniliquin. In those days there was an event in Victoria where 2 Novices played with 2 seasoned players and Robert and I along with Elizabeth Sawicki and Julette Alexander won that event twice before Robert and I got too many masterpoints.

In the first couple of years, I don't remember having a regular partner. I pretty much turned up at Andrew Mill's club (commonly known as 'Milly') and I played with someone different each session.

Editor:

When did you decide that this was an activity to pursue with gusto?

David:

I don't think I ever made a conscious decision. Tuesday and Thursday nights at Andrew Mill's club involved duplicate until about 11pm. Then we would play bridge for another two or three (or sometimes up to ten) hours depending on whether you had to work the next day.

After a couple of years, I started playing a few congresses and events at the Victorian Bridge Association.

Editor:

I seem to recall that I once had a 'most-of-the-night' session at Andrew Mill's club.

Who have been your semi-regular partners during your bridge career?

David:

Robert Fruewirth in the early days.

Then Andrew Macready-Bryan and David Thompson.

I then played with Andrew Mill for a few congresses and a couple of National open Team championships in Canberra,

I also played with Bob Gallus for a few years (Editor's note: - this is almost considered a right-of-passage at the old Victorian Bridge Association).

I also played with Alex Green before he moved to Sydney.

I also played a bit with guy named Chris Hughes around 1999-2000. We won a few state events (Editor's note - David's swimming background gave him broad shoulders).

I didn't play much bridge from 2000 to 2009 while the kids were young.

Then Neil Ewart got me back involved in a more serious fashion somewhere around 2013.

Editor:

What local results and achievements are you most proud of?

David:

Probably winning the 'Pennant' (Victoria's major state teams' event) a few times. In the past, the Albury Congress was huge event with very good prize money. A guy named Rob Kirby and I won the pairs with a score of 52.3% (not lying). All 14 pairs scored somewhere between 45 and 52.3%. We then won the teams the next day after being up pretty much all night.

Editor:

What national/international results and achievements are you most proud of?

David:

Making the state youth team 5 or 6 times was a highlight. Also, winning the youth at the National Open Teams (NOT) in Canberra once with Andrew Macready-Bryan and once with Peter Newman from Sydney was memorable.

I have made the finals of the NOT a few times including one year where we were in something like 80th place with 4 rounds to go and finished the qualifying with four 25s to scrape into the finals in 16th place. We then played the reigning World Champion Polish team and got drilled.

I have also made the Victorian Open Team three times.

I also finished 2nd in the Australian Swiss Pairs playing with Neil Ewart in 2019 (or thereabouts).

Editor:

How did your nickname come about? Who was the instigator?

David:

'Bucket' was started by my mates from swimming when I was about 14. Beckett to bucket isn't a big step though neither of my brothers got the same treatment.

Editor:

What is your general style? Are you an instinctive player or do you prefer more structure in bidding?

David:

I prefer structured (and sometimes quite complicated) bidding. I also think most people don't spend enough time on their competitive bidding structure which, especially these days happens on most hands. In the play I think I am at my best when I do what looks right. When I think too much, I usually get it wrong. (Editor's note - It would appear that you shouldn't play the role of Cassius. In Julius Caesar, Caesar remarks that Cassius "has a lean and hungry look" and says also that "He thinks too much.")

I think I'm pretty consistent. I don't do too much wrong but I'm also not much good at creating big swings. When I try something out of the ordinary, I'm usually writing down -1400.

Editor:

When did you get involved with the behind the scene activities (eg Match and Tournament Committee) and what prompted you to join the administrative aspects of the game?

David:

I got talked into it by the Thompson's. Ben coaxed me into being the Masterpoint Secretary (anyone who wants it please talk to me). Jenny conned me into the Match Tournament position.

Editor:

Obviously, mental awareness is important but do you believe that physical well-being is a significant factor in doing well at bridge especially as you age? Also, what about dietary considerations?

David:

Physical well-being is pretty important. I had a significant operation ten years ago and for the next six months I found it really difficult to concentrate at the table. Hence, my results were extremely poor. At other times when I'm in pain I find it quite difficult to play well.

It is probably best for me to not comment on dietary matters. The only thing I will say is that I don't eat before I play. So, at a congress or when playing all day at some of the more major events I don't eat till six or seven o'clock in the evening. If I do eat, I would last a maximum of three hours before wanting to sleep.

Editor:

Do you have any goals set for your bridge game?

David:

Not really. I don't play that much. I usually play Monday and Wednesday nights and the occasional Congress and National Event. I don't really want to play much more than that and to reach the higher levels you have to play more than I'm willing to play. (Hope that makes sense).

Editor:

Thank you, David for your honesty and insights. I shall be sure to offer you some food the next time I play against you in a long event. 😊

BRIDGE HUMOUR

AUSTRALIA

Lucky Starr recorded the song 'I've Been Everywhere'. One of the verses goes as follows –

*I've been to Tullamore, Seymour, Lismore, Mooloolaba,
Nambour Maroochydore, Kilmore, Murwillumbah,
Birdsville, Emmaville, Wallaville, Cunnarnulla,
Condamine, Strathpine, Proserpine, Ulladulla,
Darwin, Gin Gin, Deniliquin, Muckadilla,
Wallambilla, Boggabilla, Kumbarilla, I'm a killer.*

Lucy had heard about the game of bridge but, with a family and a busy job, she never had the time in the past to find out much about this activity. Now that the kids had all gone their own way after they finished their schooling, she felt that she now had some spare time on her hands. Her husband suggested that now was the time to find out more about this game of bridge that some of her friends play. She spoke to her friend, Gloria, and they decided to both inquire about lessons at their local club in Coffs Harbour. This they did and they found the game a challenge that they both enjoyed.

Lucy was playing in a supervised play event at the local club. For a person taking the first steps out of the beginner's classes, she felt like she was coping very well with her partner, Gloria.

They eventually arrived at Bill and Tom's table. Apparently, the two guys had been in this supervised class for along time. They had never ventured into the open field at the club. Their results were always very good and they enjoyed beating the people just out of the beginner lessons.

Lucy thought to herself that the two of them thrived as big fish in a small pond. During her psychology degree at university, the lecture often spoke about this type of individual.

As Lucy sat down to play, she heard the two of them talking and laughing. Bill said, "I got to Sydney this week". Tom replied, "Two weeks ago, I got to Newcastle". Lucy thought to herself that she regularly drove down the Pacific Highway to Newcastle and, sometimes, she ventured to Sydney on the weekend. I don't see why this trip would cause such frivolity.

Bill then asked Tom, "What is the furthest you have been?". Tom replied, "A few years ago, I got to Frankston North. It was a major highlight of my life".

After the session finished, Lucy saw her teacher who ran the beginner's class that she attended. She said that Gloria and her had played against Bill and Tom and they felt sorry for them. Lucy said, "They must be living a sheltered life. Tom's highlight was going to Frankston North. I concede that Frankston North might be a pleasant place to live but it doesn't compare to places that I treasure. These include the joys of the cherry blossoms in Japan, the sheer enormity of the Grand Canyon and the magnificence of Machu Picchu."

Her teacher smiled and said, "They are talking about penalties that they have inflicted on opponents. The post code of Sydney is 2000, Newcastle is 2300 and Frankston North is 3200. However, I do agree that it is nothing to brag about".



BRIDGE RESULTS

BRIDGE RESULTS FOR AUGUST

- VICTORIA

KNOX CONGRESS Saturday 3rd August at the Waverley Bridge Club

44 pairs contested the Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Ming Zhang	Daniel Mao
2nd	Serhat Ozenir	Chris Hughes
3rd	Kevin Gu	Paul Ruan

A great effort by Kevin Gu and Paul Ruan to place third as a restricted pair. They are improving very quickly.

TEAMS OF THREE Sunday 4th August at the Victorian Bridge Centre

In this event, eighteen captains (all very experienced players) played with three club players of various standards. The procedure was for each of the three club players to place twice with their team's captain over the course of six matches.

By all accounts, the day was a success and further events of this nature are in the pipeline.

Even though the main aim of the day was to assist all club players to develop their bridge game in a friendly and relatively non-competitive environment, there was a winning team.

The winning team is shown on the following page.

The other picture is a picture of all the captains.



Left to right – John Richards, Kitty Muntz (captain), Colin Jasper (as a fill-in), Ken Williams



Back row – Stephen Weisz, Keith Kat, Sam Arber, Martin Willcox, Kitty Muntz, Michael Phillips, Phil Fent, George Lovrecz, David Beckett, Simon Hinge

Middle row – (flowers amid the thorns [Kitty Muntz an exception]) Lisa Yoffa, Diana Smart, Maryanne Bird, Kim Frazer

Front row – Andrew Macready-Bryan, Chris Hughes, Bill Jacobs, Neil Ewart

BENALLA CONGRESS Saturday 10th August

An event that had not be held for years had a successful rebirth.

40 pairs contested the Swiss Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Nick Walsh	Wayne Leppard
2nd	Adam Pierce	Leigh Carroll
3rd	John Friesen	Richard Harman

TRARALGON CONGRESS Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th August

26 pairs contested the Swiss Pairs on Saturday and the placegetters were

1st	Deb Anglim	Shirley Stewart
2nd	Chris Fernando	Lindsay Young
3rd	Sue Beckman	Kae French

11 teams contested the Teams on Sunday and the placegetters were

1st	Martin Willcox	Justin Stark	Colin Shugg	Paul Corry
2nd	Lindsay Young	Chris Fernando	Kae French	Sue Beckman
3rd	Jean Macleod	Alison Farthing	Greg Nicholson	Kaye Douglas

RACV CONVGRESS Sunday 25th August

78 pairs contested the Swiss Pairs and the placegetters were

1 st	Christopher Leach	Neil Ewart
2nd	Gordon McRobert	Thilak Ranasinghe
3rd	Serhat Ozenir	Chen Ding



UPCOMING EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

PENINSULA CONGRESS Saturday 7th September.

The flyer is on the following page.

PHILLIP ISLAND CONGRESS Saturday 14th September and Sunday 15th September.

BWONLINE CONGRESS Saturday 21st September and Sunday 22nd September.

MCMANAMNY CLUB TEAMS Sunday 29th September.

The flyer is on a following page.

WAVERLEY SUPER CONGRESS

Friday 25th October, Saturday 26th October and Sunday 27th October. The flyer is on a following page.

(for the above two Waverley Bridge Club events, the contact details are as follows -

Nik Naumovski

Club Operations Manager

Phone +61 (03) 9807 6502

Email office@waverleybridgeclub.com.au

Web www.waverleybridgeclub.com.au

WARRNAMBOOL CONGRESS Monday 28th October

SOUTH GIPPSLAND CONGRESS Saturday 9th November and Sunday 10th November.

The flyer is on a following page.



Peninsula Bridge Club Ninth Annual Congress

7th September 2024

Venue: Saint Marks Uniting Church Hall, 50, Barclay Street, Mornington, 3931

Fees: \$45 p.p. (Please pay cash on the day.)

Light refreshments included. (It is recommended that you BYO lunch.)

Could you be so kind as to also bring your own cup.

Convenor: Lindsay Young

Email lindsayhy@westnet.com.au Tel: 03 9787 2235

Director: Martin Wilcox

Entries on www.bridgeunlimited.com

Depending on entries, the event to be split into 3 divisions with prize money for top two in each division. Prize money for best Peninsula Pair.

Highly complex systems not permitted. System cards mandatory.

Entries may be refused at the discretion of the organisers

Swiss Pairs Saturday 7th September starting at 10.00 a.m..

Geelong Bridge Club



MCMANAMNY CLUB TEAMS



RED POINT EVENT

Commemorating Nicole's team spirit and joy of bridge.

**FACE2FACE TEAMS EVENT
AT THE WAVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB**

21A ELECTRA AVENUE, ASHWOOD, 3147

Date: Sunday 29th September 2024

Time: 10:00 AM

Cost: \$60 Per Team

Director: Laurie Kelso

BYO Lunch, light refreshments provided

COMPETITION RULES



2024 WAVERLEY SUPER CONGRESS

FRIDAY 25TH - SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER

Director - Terry Crawford

FRIDAY 25th 10:00am

OPEN MP SWISS PAIRS
Under 100mp MP SWISS PAIRS

ENTRY: \$90 PER PAIR

Prizes

1st Overall Open - \$300 Per Pair
2nd Overall Open - \$200 Per Pair
1st Overall U100 - \$250 Per Pair
2nd Overall U100 - \$200 Per Pair

Saturday 26th 10:00am

SWISS PAIRS

ENTRY: \$90 PER PAIR

Prizes:

1st Overall Open - \$500 Per Pair
2nd Overall Open - \$300 Per Pair
Best U300 - \$300 Per Pair
Best U100 - \$200 Per Pair
Best Waverley Pair - \$500 Per Pair
Only one prize per pair

Sunday 27th 10:00am

SWISS TEAMS

ENTRY: \$180 PER TEAM

Prizes:

1st Overall Open - \$800 Per Team
2nd Overall Open - \$400 Per Team
Best Waverley Team - \$400 Per Team
Only one prize per team

BYO Lunch

snacks, tea & coffee provided

Beer, wine, and soft drinks available for purchase

ENTER NOW THROUGH MYABF

[HTTP://MYABF.COM.AU/GO/WAVERLEYCONGRESS](http://myabf.com.au/go/waverleycongress)

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21A Electra Avenue, Ashwood,3147

SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE CLUB

ANNUAL CONGRESS

Held over 2 Days

Red Point events



Swiss Pairs: 11am Saturday 9 November 2024

Teams 10am Sunday 10 November 2024

Venue: Dakers Centre aka Leongatha Senior Citizens Centre, 23 Smith St, Leongatha, VIC

Director: Martin Willcox

Convenor: John Quayle



ENTRIES:

- Entries on www.bridgeunlimited.com (upcoming events), close 6 November 5pm
- Entry fee \$45 per player per day with renowned Gippsland country fare lunch provided both days
- Prizes - depending on entries
- System cards mandatory. Highly artificial systems not permitted
- Further information John Quayle 0428204902 or email sqbridgeclub@hotmail.com
- Results can be viewed on the South Gippsland Bridge Club website www.bridgewebs.com/southgippsland/

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? SEPT

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♦	P	1NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

Playing in a team's match where beating the contract is your main concern (overtricks are secondary).

A simple auction sees the opponents finish in 3NT.

NORTH

♠A4
♥AK4
♦KQJT97
♣Q3

WEST

♠J9862
♥932
♦A
♣KJT2

You, as West, lead the ♠6. Dummy plays the ♠A, partner the ♠7 and declarer the ♠Q.

Declarer now plays the ♦K from dummy and partner and declarer both follow and you win the ♦A.

What is your plan?

Answer at the end of the bulletin.

RECENT RANKING PROMOTIONS

UPDATED BY THE CLUBS IN JULY 2024

A special congratulations to Michael Stokie of the Geelong Bridge Club who is now a Grand Master (1000+ masterpoints)

CLUB	NAME	RANK
Alexandra Club	Rechner, Alison	Graduate
Bairnsdale Bridge Club	Wood, Andrew	Graduate
Ballarat Bridge Club	Bennett, Vicki	Bronze Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Colyer, Kelley	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Hallam, Penelope	Bronze Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Sparks, Jean	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Stopp, Andrew	Regional
Benalla Bridge Club	Rudolph, Claire	Graduate
Bendigo Bridge Club	Angove, Sam	Graduate
Bendigo Bridge Club	Balaam, Jill	Local
Bendigo Bridge Club	Conley, David	Local
Bendigo Bridge Club	Dempsey, Eamon	Local
Bendigo Bridge Club	Pithie, Glenise	Regional
Bendigo Bridge Club	Shearer, Cathie	State
Bendigo Bridge Club	Simpson, Jan	State
BWOnline Bridge Club	Crowe, Gina	Silver Local
BWOnline Bridge Club	Maloney, Maree	Silver Local
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Gough, Michael	Local
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Landy, Annie	Regional
Geelong Bridge Club	Cristina, Patt	Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Stokie, Michael	Grand
Kattery Bridge Club	Zadnik, Megan	Regional
KLTC Bridge Club	Bertalli, Diana	Silver Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Brookes, Marg	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Gowers, Catherine	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Pearson, Trish	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Phillips, Sherilyn	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Sansom, Vic	Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Williams, Max	Regional
KLTC Bridge Club	Wilson, Cathie	Local
Lyceum Club	Cronin, Anne	Graduate
Lyceum Club	Duke, Janet	Club
Maine Bridge Club	Wallis, Rob	Graduate
Mildura Bridge Club	Japp, Jan	Local
Mildura Bridge Club	Matthews, Graeme	Graduate
Mildura Bridge Club	Tuck, Marie	Silver Local

Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Guglielmi, Tamara	Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Lonergan, Jan	Silver Life
Northern Bridge Club	Foote, Geraldine	Local
Northern Bridge Club	Hocking, Jan	Regional
Northern Bridge Club	Urdevics, Christine	Regional
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Birrell, Robyn	Graduate
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Jansen, Stella	Regional
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Kay, Sheena	Bronze Local
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Kay, Steve	Local
OZ Bridge Club	Andrews, Jannifer	Silver Local
Phillip Island Bridge Club	Murphy, Clare	Local
Phillip Island Bridge Club	Sund, Bron	Bronze National
RACV Bridge Group	Fitzherbert, Richard	Bronze National
RACV Bridge Group	Ryan, Gabrielle	Graduate
RACV Bridge Group	Stoney, Mary	National
RACV Bridge Group	Teasdale, Melinda	Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Aitken, Ginny	Graduate
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	List, Maureen	Regional
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Rossiter-Nuttall, Jac	Silver Life
Sale Bridge Club	Bennett, Daph	Silver Local
Sale Bridge Club	Castles, Raynor	Bronze Local
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Harvey, Ruth	Silver Local
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Perriam, Julie	Silver Local
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Gray, Lyn	Local
Traralgon Bridge Club	Moloney, Anne	Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Czarny, Anita	Regional
Victorian Bridge Centre	Dacey, Vivienne	National
Victorian Bridge Centre	Eason, Russ	Bronze Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Jankie, Jeffrey	Club
Victorian Bridge Centre	Rose, Bernie	National
Victorian Bridge Centre	Rundle, Kay	Graduate
Victorian Bridge Centre	Stiles, Robert	Bronze Regional
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Houghton, Nick	Club
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Lynch, Barb	Graduate
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Thomas, Penny	Bronze State
Waverley Bridge Club	Decouto, Judy	Bronze Regional
Waverley Bridge Club	Frederic, Maria	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Matthews, Paul	Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Minogue, Michael	Silver Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Seymour, Judy	Regional
Waverley Bridge Club	Sterck, Annie	Silver Local
Wodonga Bridge Club	Rooney, Jane	Graduate

Congratulations to all of the above.

REGIONAL UPDATE (KERRY DELCOURT)

NORTHERN REGION NEWS WINTERING WELL!

From Mildura to Maine and Wangaratta to Whittlesea - all along the mighty Murray, into the High Country, down the Ovens and over to the Goldfields - winter innovations abounded. Small or large undertakings, unique or not, these activities unite and bond us, bringing a friendly, happy and cooperative face to our 'Mindsport' of Bridge.

EUROA AFFILIATION

A big welcome to the High Country

A tiny town with a giant heart at the foot of the Strathbogie Ranges, Euroa became a newly affiliated club this winter. When Covid-19 hit, the local social group had to move premises in order to meet social-distancing regulations. When those premises flooded, they had to search yet again for a new home. While they were on the hop, and at the initiative of some club members, they became affiliated. Last year they were successful in applying for a Community Grant from the Shire of Strathbogie which enabled them to purchase Compuscore3 and Bridgemates. Stalwart member Helen Peters says although it is "... *equipment we are still coming to terms with*", it is all taking shape and they are extremely grateful for the assistance and support of Derek Poulton and Graham Broad from the Shepparton Bridge Club. Next port of call will be a dealing machine.

A visit to this charming historical town offers some very informal, relaxed bridge with a very small, friendly group as well as a chance to experience Euroa's beautiful Indigenous Gardens and a number of walks. You can *Fish for Finesses* and *Fish for Trout* in this stunning 'High Country' town. Euroa plays on Monday afternoons at the Euroa Band Hall.



BENALLA CONGRESS REJUVENATION

A Phoenix from the Ashes

Benalla held its first Congress for over 30 years on August 10th and what a great job by the Benalla club! Interest over the years had waned but was reinvigoration by a suggestion to make it a "people's playground" with equal prizes for Novice, Restricted and Open. To welcome visitors in from the cold a good,

old-fashioned country spread of sweet and savoury, hot and cold greeted us, giving a central meeting spot for old comrades to reunite. After warming the cockles of our hearts, the day continued in similar style. The welcoming atmosphere made for a great Congress.

Novice Pairs was won by Glenda Burt and Wendy Bodey from Bendigo, the Under 300 category was won by local Benalla pair Coral Day and Carlin Bruce and the Open was won by Nick Walsh and Wayne Leppard. Kudos to a few *Rising Stars* who had never even played for Masterpoints before, let alone in a Congress. Tired but happy, well done to those two pairs.

Thank you to Director Martin Willcox for his very early morning trek from Melbourne, looking after us all so well and contributing to what was a very happy day. Thank you, Benalla. We will definitely be on your doorstep again next August.



Novice Winners – Glenda Burt and Wendy Bodey



Restricted Winners – Carlin Bruce and Coral Day



Open Winners – Wayne Leppard and Nick Walsh

MILDURA TRI-STATE EVENT

Mildura (Vic), Broken Hill (NSW), Riverland (SA)

With interstate bridge playing friends "just up the road" (well, 300 kms away), the Mildura Bridge Club Committee decided a Tri-State Event was in order. Ideally located in its beautiful river setting in a three-state corner, Mildura made for a perfect location for the inaugural event. Secretary, Dee Simpson, says *"after a lot of preparation, phone calls and meetings, 52 players met to play for a bronze shield"*.

A cuppa, scones, jam and cream welcomed the visitors and the Mildura members did themselves proud in supplying hot soup, sandwiches, all sorts of tasty finger food followed by delectable cakes, pastries and everything else that made a full spread. The *"two blokes running the kitchen"* and beginning players, were highly praised and prized. *"After lunch, and enjoying the fellowship and friendship from all three clubs, we then played the closing hands. To add to the fun and atmosphere of the day, the local members donated a large array of prizes for raffles which was drawn while the scores were being collated."* The Winning Town was determined by the BEST CLUB AVERAGE. Narrowly contested, Mildura came out on top, followed by Broken Hill and Riverland.

Full steam ahead for a repeat next year - *"Everyone agreed it was a most successful, fun day of bridge and will certainly be an ongoing event"*. With Tuesday and Thursday afternoon sessions, a Beginners Session on Tuesday mornings, the promise of three terrific towns for sightseeing and a friendly country welcome, Mildura sounds like a "must-go" Bridge destination.



WODONGA LEARN AND PLAY

Sharing the teaching load- monthly guest teachers

Open to all affiliated players, Wodonga's end-of-month Saturday Improving-Intermediate lessons are conducted by a range of experienced, reputable regional teachers. Lessons in the morning are followed by a full bridge session in the afternoon. The Winter sessions got off to a good start with topics facilitated by Derek Poulton, Jan Hackett and Mary Prowse. Followed up by the well-received July-August sessions, "Overcalls" by Tom Hackett and "Weak 2's" by Jan Hackett, the sessions are attracting a good crowd. Spring lessons will begin with "Doubles" in October by Kerry Delcourt. Details will be posted on the Bridge Victoria website. Come on up for the weekend and enjoy the region as well as the lesson and a full bridge session that afternoon.

Phone Mary Prowse for details: 0401 132074.



Wodonga Bridge Club. 15 Havelock Street, Wodonga.

MACEDON V MAINE

Goldfields Friendly

On the initiative of Macedon Ranges Bridge Club, neighbouring clubs at Macedon and Castlemaine conducted an inaugural CLUB TEAMS v CLUB TEAMS event between the two towns. With each fielding six teams over two sessions, 'friendly' is the key word in the title of the event and that summed up the spirit of the competition - but it was a competition and so there had to be winners and losers.

On the day the Maine Bridge Club were convincing winners taking out the trophy (non-existent but maybe next year) helped along by their Top Team of Ron Wescott (subbed for the pm session by Jenni Rutherford), Graham Forbes, Trisha McGregor and Paul O'Hare. Best performed Macedon Ranges team was Millicent Henry, Diana Marsland, Evelyn Stephenson and Kim Model. Hosted by Macedon Ranges Bridge Club and held at Taradale it was agreed by all that this event should become an annual affair with Maine taking a turn to host next year.



Maine Bridge Club winning team.
Graham Forbes, Jenni Rutherford, Paul O'Hare and Trisha McGregor (missing team member Ron Westscott).

TWIN TOWNS ANNUAL SISTER PILGRIMAGE
Albury/Wodonga by the fire – join us!

What a place to meet for 5 consecutive days of Bridge! When Gail Scealy, from a property “West of West Wyalong”, retired and took up bridge she thought she would be getting lots of tips from her sister, a Bendigo player. The tyranny of distance and Gail’s poor internet connection and a large property, including an extensive garden, that demands her attention almost all year round, posed some difficulties. Albury-Wodonga saved the day. With just over 3 hours’ trip each and bridge being offered almost every day/night, meeting halfway in this very comfortable location was ideal.

The great people, delicious cakes from Murial Cake at Wodonga, post-match drinks downstairs with other players at the beautiful Albury Commercial Club, great restaurants and back to toasty, winter accommodation for a recap of the hands (and a night cap for some) makes for a great five days. Cooking, cleaning, garden, farm work, better halves what’s that? This year two other players from West Wyalong joined us and we are expecting additional “pilgrims” in the Winter of 2025.

Join the ‘Sisters’! Last week in June or early July. Phone Kerry for the date if you want to join us next year - 0438 008354. Thank you to the Directors, Harry Van der Veeke, Sue McConnell and Mary Prowse and the members for their usual warm welcomes.



Albury and Wodonga players at The Commercial Club Albury



From front to back - Director Harry Van der Veeke, Kerry Delcourt of Bendigo, Marie Jolly of West Wyalong

FRIENDLY WELCOME AS ALWAYS!

BENDIGO MINIS

Facilitators research and present a topic

Open to all affiliated players in the Region, Bendigo’s winter series mini lessons featured various members facilitating a lesson. Picking a topic from a list offered by the Education Sub-Committee, each facilitator researched their topic and conducted a one-hour workshop. Lessons are designed to offer what the experts say on a topic at the Improving or Intermediate levels and give the players guidance as to where to look further. The Minis were kicked off by Merlyne Pritchard and Charles Young on “*Losing Trick Count*” and Jennifer Goddard on “*Understanding Event Scoring and Bridgemates*”. Players enjoyed Ryan Touton’s “*Vul versus NV*” featuring his infamous traffic lights (gives driving a whole new perspective for his partner) and Kerry Delcourt on “*Opening Light in 3rd and 4th seats*” followed by Graham Forbes with “*1NT Responses*”. Mid-way through the winter series, the club engaged Martin Willcox, an external guest teacher from Melbourne, who facilitated a full day of lessons covering “*Roman Keycard Blackwood*” and “*Cue Raises*.”



Spring in Bendigo will offer some more golden learning opportunities. The Minis will be held on a Friday. Visitors are welcome between 12 noon to 1pm and BYO Lunch. A full bridge session is conducted at 1.30pm for people wishing to stay and play. See the Bendigo Bridge Club website for dates, topic details and facilitators

OTHER

Vale Jeannette Collins

Jeannette Collins, President of the VBA from 2003 – 2012, passed away peacefully with her family at her side at midnight August 4th, aged 78. She was the longest surviving double lung transplant in Australia and enjoyed many happy years following the procedure.

Jeannette gave outstanding service to bridge in Victoria and was elected as a Life Member of the VBA in 2007. She was a fine bridge player and had many friends in the bridge community. She represented Victoria at many Australian National championships. Paul Lavings (the expert Sydney player and bridge book seller at all Australian Bridge events) was her mentor for some time and she partnered Simon Hinge in many national events.

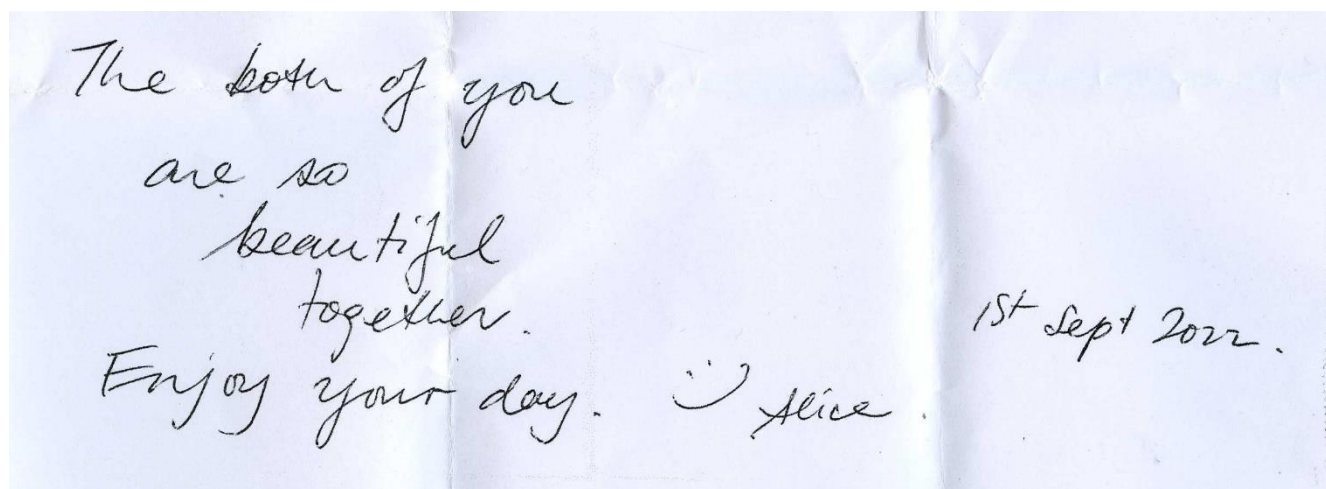
Her bridge achievements included being part of the Victorian Women's Teams at the ANC in 2001, 2003, 2004, 2013 and 2016. She won the Victorian Mixed Pairs in 2003. She also was part of the winning team at the 2006 National Women's Teams Competition in Canberra.

She was very willing to share her experiences and help newcomers to the game when she was able.

She is survived by her 4 children, Natasha, Jarrod, Ben and Cassie and her 8 grandchildren.

Simon Hinge offered the following as he mourns her passing.

It's been a troubling time for me for a number of reasons! Jeannette and I won the Territory Gold Swiss Pairs in 2016. The following piece of correspondence was from an unknown admirer "paying it forward."



We spent our life traveling to bridge congresses and elsewhere! At least 10 times to the Gold Coast Congress and only one trip to Darwin via Broome and home down the centre.

The following is a photo of Jeanette Collins and Sandra Davies that I took while we were on holidays in the Cook Islands.



Editor's note:

Although I only knew Jeanette from seeing her at the bridge club, I can confirm that she was a pleasure to play against. She was always friendly and courteous. However, she also was a strong competitor as well.

This is a trait to which all bridge players should aspire.

From **JENNY THOMPSON**

This is the link to a brochure about the 2025 Summer Festival. This is an annual event held in Canberra every January. It is now on MyABF. Laura Ginnan of Victoria is the new tournament convener of this prestigious event and also the convener of 2025 Youth Week (that just precedes the National Open Teams).

https://www.myabf.com.au/media/congress-downloads/2024/08/20/2025_Summer_Festival_of_Bridge_Brochure.pdf



FEEDBACK

Chris

Only a few pairs bid the grand slam in ♥s at the Knox Congress. How can it be bid confidently?

NORTH(D)

♠ Q74
♥ 5
♦ T943
♣ QJT84

WEST

♠ AK
♥ AKQJT74
♦ J62
♣ 3

EAST

♠ T5
♥ 932
♦ AKQ75
♣ A92

SOUTH

♠ J98632
♥ 86
♦ 8
♣ K765

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
P	1♦	P	1♥
P	1NT	P	2♦
P	2♥	P	4NT
P	5♥	P	5NT
P	7♥	ALL PASS	

2♦ is an artificial game force and 2♥ shows a three card ♥ suit. 5♥ shows two without the ♥Q. Now the key bid, 5NT, states that we have all the controls, bid 7♥ with a source of tricks or show a king.

Please submit your queries to the email address.

editor@bridgevictoria.au

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE – SEPT SOLUTION

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♦	P	1NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

NORTH(D)

♠A4
 ♥AK4
 ♦KQJT97
 ♣Q3

WEST

♠J9862
 ♥932
 ♦A
 ♣KJT2

EAST

♠T73
 ♥JT87
 ♦8432
 ♣A7

SOUTH

♠KQ7
 ♥Q65
 ♦65
 ♣98654

You, as West, lead the ♠6. Dummy plays the ♠A, partner the ♠7 and declarer the ♠Q.

Declarer now plays the ♦K from dummy and partner and declarer both follow and you win the ♦A.

Answer:

Surely, if declarer had a singleton ♠Q, they would have ducked it around to their hand hoping that you had led away from the ♠K. Therefore, declarer has the ♠K. So, unless you take four tricks quickly, declarer has nine tricks – two ♠ tricks, two ♥ tricks and five ♦ tricks.

The ♣ suit must provide those four tricks (ie partner has the ♣A).

The obvious switch is the ♣J, so that partner wins and returns a ♣ (but your fourth ♣ is the ♣2).

What is declarer's shape, less than four ♥s and less than four ♠s (as either would have been bid over 1♦)? Therefore, the chance that partner has a four-card ♣ suit and declarer a three-card ♣ suit is greatly diminished.

Lead the ♣2 and hope that partner has worked out the ♠ situation like you and returns not a ♠ but a ♣. After all, defensive play is a strong cooperative aspect of this game.

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS – SEPT SOLUTION

The following hand took place in a team event

NORTH(D)

♠AK53
♥9
♦J873
♣KJ72

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠
♥AQ87632
♦Q62
♣AT5

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♣	P	1♥	P
1NT	P	4♥	P
P	P		

With both sides vulnerable, the auction proceeds as shown.

A straightforward auction to 4♥.

West leads the ♣6.

You play the ♣J but East plays the ♣Q and you win the ♣A.

What is your plan from here?

On the reasonable assumption that you have two trump losers, you will have to avoid two losers in the ♦ suit.

The potential problem is that the only way that you can discard these ♦ losers is by throwing them on the ♠AK.

The only entry to dummy is the ♣K.

There are two possibilities and you can choose either

The first is to go to dummy at trick two by leading the ♣5 toward the ♣K. Now cash the ♠AK throwing two ♦s. Then lead the ♥9 planning to finesse East for the ♥K.

The second is to cash the ♥A first in case West has the singleton ♥K (if they do, then cash the ♥Q). Now go to dummy by leading the ♣5 toward the ♣K. Now cash the ♠AK throwing two ♦s. Then lead the ♠3 (safest return) and ruff and play a trump.

Which is better? The second approach is more spectacular (dropping the singleton ♥K offside. Your partner will be impressed and your opponents upset). However, in normal situations, you will be unlucky to be defeated either way.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH – AUGUST SOLUTION

Both sides nil vulnerable in a pair's match

NORTH
 ♠ Q32
 ♥ AT3
 ♦ 4
 ♣ QJ8632

WEST(D)
 ♠ AKJT85
 ♥ 4
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ K974

EAST
 ♠ 976
 ♥ Q86
 ♦ T8763
 ♣ T5

SOUTH
 ♠ 4
 ♥ KJ9752
 ♦ AQ952
 ♣ A

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
			1♠
P	P	2♥	DBL
2♠	DBL	4♦	P
4♥	P	P	4♠
P	P	5♥	ALL PASS

North bid 2♠ as a cue raise and East's double, after an original pass and West's previous double showing a good hand, suggested a weak ♠ fit.

South showed a good two-suiter with the 4♦ bid.

After, South's 4♠ bid, North should probably double with a shortness in ♦s but, without the DBL, South bid 5♥ which ended the auction.

West leads the ♠A. Then accurately switches to the ♥4.

You play the ♥3 and East follows with the ♥8 and you win with the ♥9.

You lead the ♦A and West plays the ♦J and the rest of the trick is the ♦4 and the ♦6.

What is your plan from here?

This is another example of a hand where careful consideration of the auction should be taken and the given inferences drawn.

West should have a very good hand with a six-card ♠ suit headed by the AK (given that East's double presumably shows three ♠s).

Given West's 4♠ bid, it suggests a short ♥ and now the ♦J suggests having only one or two ♦s.

Alternative 1.

You can play West for a 6 2 2 3 shape and ruff a ♦ now. However, on this layout, the ♦T and the ♥Q become tricks for the defence.

Alternative 2.

You can play West for a 6 1 2 4 shape and cash the ♣A before a ♦ ruff. Now play the ♣Q and throw a small ♦. West is now in and what do they do?

Whatever West does, East is forced to ruff the ♣Q and their ♥ trick disappears.

(If you are wrong and West has a third ♦ (ie original holding of KJT in a 6 1 3 3 distribution), you now have a ♥ loser when they exit with a ♦).

'TP' WROTE IN WITH THE ALTERNATIVE 2 SOLUTION. Well done by him.